Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 01089 131003Z

14
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 OMB-01 OES-02 INR-05 L-01 SP-02 H-01 PA-01

PM-03 TRSE-00 /045 W
---------- 067649
R 130748Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5457
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

S E C R E T SEOUL 1089

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG PFOR CH KS US
SUBJ: GULF COMMITMENT TO ROK TO DRILL OFFSHORE

REF: 75 STATE 58097

1. LOCAL GULF REPRESENTATIVE KEITH MCWALTER (PRESIDENT, KOREA GULF OIL COMPANY) HAS ASKED EMBASSY ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR BENNETT WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN POSITION ON DRILLING IN NORTHERN PART OF BLOCK IV.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR ADVISED GULF AGAINST DRILLING AT TWO PROPOSED SITES IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF ITS BLOCK, AND GULF POSTPONED ITS DRILLING PLANS INDEFINITELY, THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT IS NOW, ACCORDING TO MCWALTER, URGING GULF ANEW TO DRILL ELSEWHERE IN BLOCK IV AND ASKING HOW FAR THE USG ADVICE EXTENDS. GULF HAS TOLD US IT IS NOT REALLY INTERESTED IN DRILLING IN THE RELATIVELY UNPROMISING NORTHERN PART OF THE BLOCK. OBVIOUSLY IT WOULD WELCOME AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEFLECT ROK PRESSURE BY SAYING THE USG HAD ADVISED GULF NOT TO DRILL ANYWHERE IN THE BLOCK. HOWEVER, THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF BLOCK IV LIES CLOSE TO THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SEOUL 01089 131003Z

WESTERN END OF CHEJU ISLAND, AN INTEGRAL AND POPULATED PART OF

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, SO THAT IT APPEARS DIFFICULT TO US TO ARGUE THAT THERE IS A SERIOUS RISK THAT THE PRC WILL CLAIM PETROLEUM RIGHTS SO CLOSE TO ROK TERRITORY AND SO FAR FROM MAIN-LAND CHINA.

3. WE PROPOSE TO RESPOND TO MCWALTER THAT (1) THE DEPARTMENT ALREADY ADVISED GULF (REFTEL, PARA 6) THAT THE ELEMENT OF RISK INVOLVED IS NOT REALLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO PRECISE GEOGRAPHIC DEFINI-TION AND THAT (2) GULF SHOULD CONSULT THE DEPARTMENT DIRECTLY IF IT WISHES TO PROPOSE SPECIFIC NEW POSSIBLE DRILLING SITES. HOWEVER, BEFORE RESPONDING TO MCWALTER WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE.
SNEIDER

SECRET

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OFFSHORE DRILLING, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SEOUL01089
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760055-0533
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760250/aaaabrpp.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 58097
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GULF COMMITMENT TO ROK TO DRILL OFFSHORE
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, CH, KS, US, GULF, (MCWALTER, KEITH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006